Dear Friends,

Forget Christmas, I think January is the most wonderful time of the year. Don’t get me wrong, Christmas is great, but when December 25th finally comes around, most of us are so emotionally, financially, and commercially drained that it’s kind of a joy when it’s all done.

But January is the start of all things new: new calendar, new goals, new dreams, new perspectives, and new possibilities abound. What will 2015 hold for you? Who do you want to become? How will you make those changes this year? Who will you meet, where will you travel, what will you learn?

Those are the fun things to ponder at the start of a new year. But with every new thing, there’s also a twinge of uncertainty. Will it be a year of health or illness? Will it be a profitable year or will you be financially strapped? What happens if ________? Do you trust God to lead you through whatever may come?

As I’m recognizing in my own life, trust is much easier said than done. When all is well, it’s easy to trust God, when you’re being pounded with bad news, it’s a different story. So in these times, there is one thing from Christmas that I hold on to: Emmanuel; which means, God with us.

No matter what happens, you are not alone. Whether it’s a diagnosis, fuel fill-up, surgery, a bad day, grief, or attacks of every kind, you are not alone. Emmanuel – God is with you. So be encouraged, knowing that you do not face 2015 alone. Through good and bad, God is with you.

May you find comfort, as I have, in Psalm 56:

“Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me; all day long foes oppress me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many fight against me. O Most High, when I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid; what can flesh do to me? ...Then my enemies will retreat in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid. What can a mere mortal do to me? My vows to you I must perform, O God; I will render thank offerings to you. For you have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling, so that I may walk before God in the light of life.”

In Peace and Hope,

Pastor Jennifer Rose
January 4  “Light Of My Life”  
Text: Matthew 2:1-12  
Today we celebrate Epiphany – the manifestation of Jesus in our midst. The Wise Men finally make their appearance in the Christmas story and we give thanks for the gift of Jesus – the light of life.

January 11  “You Are Beloved”  
Text: Mark 1:4–11  
At Jesus’ baptism, a voice comes from heaven, saying, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” We gather to give thanks to God for the gift of baptism and for the gift of being God’s beloved sons and daughters.

January 18  “Here I Am, Lord”  
Text: 1 Samuel 3:1–10  
God’s call comes to us in diverse ways. Sometimes it is a dramatic event, and other times it comes in quieter ways that require repetition before it dawns on us that God is calling us to some new expression of discipleship. None of us is immune! In baptism we are all called and ordained to the priesthood of all believers.

January 25  “More than a Fish Tale”  
Text: Jonah 3:1–5, 10  
The people of Nineveh had done so much evil that they deserved to be destroyed. But when they turned and repented of their sins, God changed his mind and did not destroy them. How is their response different from Jonah’s… from ours?

Our Christmas Cookies for Special Friends was a huge success!  
We delivered over 70 generous plates of Christmas cookies to shut-ins and members of our congregation who no longer bake. Our sincere thanks to the many members who donated their homemade cookies and candies for this special event. We are also grateful for the dedicated drivers who delivered these plates to church members. The feedback the drivers have shared is that the recipients were delighted to receive this Christmas gift from First Lutheran. Thank you, thank you!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEETING  
Sunday, January 25, 2015  
Potluck at Noon followed by the Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Winter Weather Information
If Fergus Falls Schools close due to bad weather, the activities at the church that day will be cancelled and the church office will be closed. Sunday morning worship will never be cancelled, but please use your good judgment when deciding if you should come to worship or not. REMEMBER you can always listen at home to the 8:30 a.m. worship on KJJK AM 1020.
January Service Units The following are the people in this Unit
Please say “YES” when you are called to help!

Ryan/Sarah Cheshire
Mike & Janette Fletchall
Richard Goulet
Clarice Grewa
Carol Hanson
Neil/Madeline Herman
Todd/Tammy Hinsverk
Mary (Boyd) Johnson
Megan Johnson
Tim/Lana Johnson
Toby/Kylene Johnson
Leo Jorschumb
Angie Julsrud
Elsie Knoll
Linda Kucera
Colleen Kumm
Allen/Sandra Kutzke
Tracy Lillemom
Bud/Linda Mellon
Sharon Mesna
David Mortenson
Jack/Judy Mouritsen
Mike & Janette Fletchall
Richard Goulet
Clarice Grewa
Carol Hanson
Neil/Madeline Herman
Todd/Tammy Hinsverk
Mary (Boyd) Johnson
Megan Johnson
Tim/Lana Johnson
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Elsie Knoll
Linda Kucera
Colleen Kumm
Allen/Sandra Kutzke
Tracy Lillemom
Bud/Linda Mellon
Sharon Mesna
David Mortenson
Jack/Judy Mouritsen
Jack/Sandy Pearson
Peggy Peterson
Daniel/Carol Roehl
Bob/Susanne Ronning
Dustin/Melissa Schwartz
Dolores Simdorn
Gina Steyn
Amy Sund
Dave/Becky Thole
Tom/Jeani Trosvig
Nicholas Welde

SHARE YOUR GIFTS

If you haven’t had time or maybe misplaced your 2015 Gifts for Living the Mission (Time and Talent) sheet, please stop into church and fill one out. They can be found at the Info Counter and dropped off in the church office. We are working on compiling the lists.

Picture Directory Coming Soon!!

We are planning the production of a 2015 pictorial directory for our church. There is no cost to you or the church to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and picture directory for participating. You will be able to view your images electronically immediately after you are photographed. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. Sign-up in the church office or online now at www.flcffmn.com and click on the link provided.

Watch for more details coming soon!!

Pictures will be taken:
2nd & 4th week of March
2nd week of June

The Muriel L. Nelson Scholarship, awarded through the First Lutheran Foundation, is now available. Muriel L. Nelson gifted an endowment to the Foundation to provide scholarships and assistance to persons pursuing a Christian education. This year, two, $700 scholarships will be awarded to persons pursuing a Christian education at a church related post secondary school and who are members of First Lutheran Church or have families who are members of First Lutheran Church. The application is available by contacting the church office. Questions may be directed to Missy Mattson, Foundation Board Member at missymattson@yahoo.com or 736-6281. The application deadline is April 15, 2015.

The First Lutheran Foundation’s mission is to use funds entrusted to it to further the mission of Christ’s church so that the blessing of the gospel may be shared with all people. If you would like to learn more about giving to the Foundation, please contact any of the Foundation members: Orrie Leabo, Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Vicki Hanneman, Chad Felstul, Linda Mellon, or Missy Mattson.
Love Days Quilters

Meet every Monday (9 am—3 pm)
All women are Welcome to share in Fellowship and Sewing for our Mission Projects!

WELCA Board will meet Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 10am in the Kairos Room

*Sarah Circle : Will not meet in January
*Hannah Circle : Wednesday, Jan 28th 1:00pm at First Lutheran Church

2014 New Members joined First Lutheran Church on November 23

Richard & Debbie Felstul
218-998-2177

Kile & Tonya Bergren
Ellie, Katie
218-998-1991

2015 Offering Envelopes

Are ready to be picked up in the Narthex on tables. They are in alphabetical order. If you don’t see your envelopes, stop in the church office and see Leslie.

Your Giving Makes a Difference
2014 New Members joined First Lutheran Church on November 23

Curt & Ann Rotto
218-739-2488

Chase Johansen & Katie Jensen
320-226-2457

LeRoy & Carol Thompson
218-731-5747

Logan & Jasmine Sonmor
218-205-0436

New Member joining in January:
Clarice Ohman
218-998-9983
2014 New Members joined First Lutheran Church on November 23

Luke Delaney & Sara Parsons
218-330-8056

Paul Hennen & Katie Cox
218-770-4884

Erin Warren
Presley, Zoey
218-770-0467

Teresa Gervais
952-250-0432
Faith Building

Our Sunday School students were messengers of the Good News of Jesus Christ through the presentation of the Christmas Program last month. We thank all of the students, teachers, directors and musicians for their message. The students celebrated a Birthday Party for Jesus with treats and a visit from “the Holy family”. They brought gifts of mittens and warm items that were donated to the Salvation Army.

We continue on our mission to build the faith by offering Milestone classes for children and their parents. The next class has been prepared for the Preschool 2 Class. It is an interactive time to practice praying, while playing! It will be held on January 25th for the students and their parents.

Cindy Larson
Sunday School Superintendent

January Happenings

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>No Sunday School</td>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
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<td>“Butterflies” for</td>
<td>Jan. 11</td>
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<td>0-3 yr. olds and parent</td>
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<td>Sunday School resumes</td>
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<td>“Dragonflies” for</td>
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<td>Preschool 2- Kdgn. and</td>
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<td>Preschool 2 Class</td>
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Faith Builders Art Contest!

Happy New Year!

Our church needs the help of Sunday School to teach everyone what it means to be a “FAITH BUILDER”. Show us what you think it means to be a FAITH BUILDER by drawing a picture, writing a story or poem, creating a sculpture…anything! Your artwork will be on display. The artwork must be submitted by Jan. 18, 2015. The winner will present a check to the Habitat for Humanity. Contest is for Kdgn-8th grade.
The 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering Team would like to thank the congregation for their support of the winter Coffee & Lefse fundraisers! We are grateful for each and every one of you.